

Appl. No. 10/632,278
Atty. Docket No. 8830C
Amdt. dated July 01, 2004
Reply to Office Action of April 2, 2004
Customer No. 27752

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of dynamically pre-fastening disposable absorbent articles having a slot-and-tab fastening system as the articles are driven forward at a relatively high velocity along a predetermined path, the method comprising the steps of:
 - (a) providing a disposable absorbent article being folded longitudinally into a bi-fold configuration;
 - (b) inserting at least a portion of a tab member of the slot-and-tab fastening system through a slot of the slot-and-tab fastening system by positioning the slot member with a slot locator and by guiding the tab member with a guiding rail and a folding board;
 - (c) while holding the portion of the tab member being inserted through the slot, moving the slot member of the article opposite to the direction of insertion of the portion of the tab member until the slot of the slot member passes beyond a lip portion of the tab member to effect a complete insertion of the tab member through the slot member and to effect a closed configuration of the slot-and-tab fastening system forming a pre-fastened disposable absorbent article,
wherein the pre-fastened disposable absorbent article is traveling at a rate of at least 200 feet per minute.
2. (New) The method according to claim 1 wherein the pre-fastened disposable absorbent article is traveling at a rate from about 200 feet per minute to about 1,000 feet per minute.
3. (New) A method of dynamically locating slots on a disposable absorbent articles having a fastening system, said fastening system having a slot, said method comprising the steps of:
 - (a) engaging a slot on a disposable absorbent articles with a slot locator; and
 - (b) moving the slot by use of said slot locator along a predetermined path to a target position.

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4. (New) The method of claim 3 wherein the slot locator is operated by electromechanical, pneumatic, hydraulic or servomotor means.
5. (New) The method of claim 3 wherein the slot locator is actuated by a cam.
6. (New) The method of claim 3 wherein the slot locator is located about a drum.
7. (New) The method of claim 3 further comprising the step of inserting a tab fastening member through the slot.